

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062811

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY, SUB-GROUP ON LOGISTICS

REF: (A) STATE 34207; (B) USNATO 1268; (C) DS/ASG(74)56

1. WE VIEW THE LOGISITICS SPECIALIZATION WORKING PARTY'S
DRAFT REPORT (REF C) AS AN EXCELLENT FIRST STEP FOR
PURSUING SPECIALIZATION/RATIONALIZATION OBJECTIVES IN THE
LOGISTICS FIELD. IN COMMENTING ON THE REPORT, YOU SHOULD
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RE-EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO OUR PROPOSAL

(PARA 8(A)(2), ENCLOSURE 2, REF C) TO IDENTIFY AN ORGANIZATION TO COORDINATE THE EFFORTS OF THE VARIOUS AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH THIS SUBJECT. YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS, KEYED TO THE PARAGRAPHS IN REF C, IN DISCUSSING THE DRAFT REPORT:

A. ENCLOSURE 1, PARA 7: WE BELIEVE BELGIUM'S DEFINITION IS TOO NARROW IN THAT IT DOES NOT ACCOMMODATE THE ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITIES FOR SPECIALIZATION/RATIONALIZATION ENCOMPASSED BY THE OTHER DEFINITIONS SUBMITTED. YOU MIGHT CONTRAST THE BELGIUM DEFINITION WITH THE BROADER PURPOSE IMPLIED IN THE AGREED AIM OF MINISTERS QUOTED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE OF THE REPORT.

B. ENCLOSURE 1, PARA 15: CONCUR.

C. ENCLOSURE 2, PARAS 1 AND 2, LEOPARD TANK: SUPPORT THE BELGIUM PROPOSAL TO INVITE THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF LEOPARD USER NATIONS TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF SPECIALIZATION.

D. ENCLOSURE 2, PARA 3, AMMUNITION: CONCUR WITH THE DUTCH PROPOSAL FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT IN ALLOCATING A QUOTE FAIR SHARE END QUOTE OF PRODUCTION TO ALL NATIONS IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO FOLLOW A TRADE OFF APPROACH IN WHICH REDUCTIONS IN THE PRODUCTION OF ONE PRODUCT MIGHT BE COMPENSATED BY INCREASING THE PRODUCTION OF SOME OTHER PRODUCT.

E. ENCLOSURE 2, PARA 4, GAS TURBINES AND PARA 5, CALIBRATION: YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE BELGIUM PROPOSAL TO HAVE THE EUROGROUP STUDY THESE SUBJECT WOULD EXCLUDE OTHER NATIONS, SUCH AS THE US, WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN THESE FIELDS. THIS APPLIES ALSO TO VARIOUS BELGIUM PROPOSALS IN ENCLOSURE 2, PARA 7 TO HAVE THE EUROGROUP STUDY THE FIELDS OF MEDICAL SUPPORT, FILM PROCESSING AND SPARE PARTS FOR THE BELGIUM NAVY. WE WOULD PREFER AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY ANY NATO MEMBER COULD PARTICIPATE IN THESE FIELDS SO AS TO APPLY THE SUCCESSES OF THE EUROGROUP TO ALL OF NATO.
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F. ENCLOSURE 2, PARA 6, LOC: WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THE FRG AND BELGIUM COMMENTS ON THE LOC PROBLEM. WE FEEL THAT THEIR DEFINITION OF SPECIALIZATION IN THIS FIELD IS TOO NARROW AND DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SEVERITY OF THE PRESENT PROBLEMS. WE BELIEVE THESE PROBLEMS COULD BE PARTIALLY RESOLVED THROUGH SPECIALIZATION/RATIONALIZATION. RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF THE

WARTIME LOC WOULD BRING AN OVERALL IMPROVEMENT IN NATO'S DEFENSE CAPABILITY. SINCE THE BELGIANS FEEL THAT SPECIALIZATION MUST INVOLVE A READJUSTMENT OF DEFENSE TASKS, YOU MIGHT POINT OUT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCH TRADEOFFS IN THIS FIELD WERE INCLUDED IN OUR SPECIALIZATION/RATIONALIZATION MATRIX. YOU SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT WHILE WE HAVE ADDRESSED THE LOC ISSUE ON A BILATERAL BASIS, WE BELIEVE THESE DEFICIENCIES ARE A NATO PROBLEM AND DESERVE NATO-WIDE ATTENTION. AS TO THE FRG FOOTNOTE ON THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED, OUR WARTIME LOC PROPOSAL DOES NOT REQUIRE LOC NATIONS TO PROVIDE LOGISTICS TRANSPORT OR STORAGE BEYOND THAT REQUIRED FOR THEIR PEACETIME NATIONAL USE. FINALLY, YOU MAY SAY THAT IF THE SUB-GROUP CANNOT ACCEPT A BROADER INTERPRETATION OF ITS CHARTER THAT THE US CAN ACCEPT A SUB-GROUP RECOMMENDATION WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES THE PROBLEM AND RECOMMENDS SOLUTIONS UNDER SOME OTHER RUBRIC

SUCH AS RATIONALIZATION, OR COOPERUTION/COORDINATION.

2. AS AN OVERALL RECOMMENDATION, YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT THE FINAL SUB-GROUP REPORT CONTAIN:

A. SOME GENERAL FINDINGS OF DEFICIENCIES AND POTENTIAL AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENTS,

B. A LIST OF SUBJECTS WHICH CAN BE ASSIGNED TO EXISTING NATO ORGANIZATIONS FOR EXPLORATION, AND

C. A LIST OF SPECIFIC STUDIES WHICH THE SUB-GROUP WILL UNDERTAKE.

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